

## **REPORT FROM THE SALEM RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **August 2004**

By Robert Kim Bingham, Chairman

#### **From the President of the Salem Youth Baseball League (SYBL), Mr. Alfonso Giansanti:**

The Salem Youth Baseball League had another stellar year. The addition of Bozrah Youth League players created a new dimension to playing, as the children of both leagues were able to compete in two venues, our Round Hill Road fields and the Bozrah Youth League fields. The competition in the Major League was very stiff this year with the eventual league champions being VFW managed by Mr. Art Christian. Mr. Christian commented, "The team members were the ones who won the league championship. All I did was keep the books." Second place went to Burnett's Landscaping. Thanks to Joe Salvatore and all of the coaches and managers of the Major league.

Tee-ball and the Rookie league were constantly at the field. By the sound of the fans watching and participating both leagues were having fun. Thanks to Ted James, Chris LaRose and all of the coaches and managers of the Tee ball and Rookie league.

The Minor league was a true minor league this year. They actually faced live pitching and played the game in a manner, which will prepare them to move up to the major league next year. Congratulations to the players who will enter the league draft next year and be appointed to a major league team. Thanks to John Ahern and all of the coaches and managers of the minor league.

Girl's softball had a great year also. They played a very aggressive schedule against teams from Bozrah, East Lyme, Old Lyme, Montville, Colchester and Mystic. The games were competitive and fun to watch. Many thanks go to Peter Lee the president of the Minors Girls softball, Chris Welles the president of Girls Major Softball and Dave Dube president of the Girls Senior softball league.

There were two 14-15 year old Babe Ruth teams and one 13-year-old prep team in the Babe Ruth division this year. The 14-15 year old teams had identical records of 9-5. They played games within the Tri-County league. The 9-5 record was shared with 2 other teams in the league, which effectively gave the league a 4-way tie for first.

The Chuck Palino award was given annually to a player in the Girls 13-16 Softball league and the Boys 13-15 year old Babe Ruth. This year's award was given to Michelle Dube of the girl's softball league. The boy's award recipient was still in the voting process as of this writing. Congratulations to Michelle.

The Blethen award, which is also given annually to a player in the Major League age 9-12, was still in the voting stage as of this writing. We should have the results of the voting by opening day next year.

The league picnic was held at Saint Thomas More School August 1, 2004. The event was a little soggy but when one wears a bathing suit to a picnic a little water can be fun. The picnic was attended by 75 people give or take. I would like to thank the following people for their help in arranging, setting up and cleaning up of the picnic: Andy and Cindy Lightner, Diane Gulovsen, Diane Giansanti, Chris Welles, Joe Salvatore, Peter Lee, Art Christian, John Cassidy, John O'Sullivan and John Jr. and Roman Kachorowsky. Without their help the picnic would not have been the success that it was. I would also like to thank all of the parents and children who attended the picnic.

The SYBL held a fundraiser to upgrade the batting cage located adjacent to the tee ball field. The fundraiser was a Home Run Derby. Winners were determined by the total of their 3 longest hits before within 10-pitched balls. The winners are as follows:

Girls majors - Abby Young 369 feet

Girls minors - Nicole Lee 290 feet

Majors - Dan Hauser 583 feet (Dan hit one out of the park)

Minors - Tyler Hayslip 391 feet

Rookies- Mark Chmielewski 288 feet

T-Ball - tie between Julia Cipriani 310 and David Kennedy 310

The Net Proceeds for the fundraiser are \$1341.94. We are on our way to a better and safer batting cage. Thanks to all of the Parents and Children who contributed time and monies to the fundraiser. A huge thank you to Lynn Mulholland, who chaired the Fundraiser.

The SYBL would like to say goodbye to a long time member of the Salem Youth Baseball league and one of the founders of the Tri-County League. Mr. Paul Gentile has retired from the SYBL after 22 years of service to the children of the Town of Salem. Many will miss him. Paul was a former league commissioner and a coach for most of his 22 years in the league. Paul's leadership and knowledge of baseball helped turn many aspiring players and coaches into leaders on and off of the field of baseball. We of the Salem Youth Baseball League wish you well Paul. Remember, our meetings are still the first Sunday of every month at 7:00 in the Salem Firehouse. Please do not be a stranger!

The same goes out to the readers of this column who have children in the league. As our children get older and leave the league parents already involved in the league move on with their children. There are always openings and we encourage new members to join the Salem Youth Baseball league to ensure the hard work of the founders of the league is not wasted.

Fall baseball registration will begin soon so look for fliers containing information of the registration site and time

Once again, thank you children and parents of Salem for a great baseball season.

Alfonso N. Giansanti  
Commissioner, SYBL

**From the President of the Salem Surge Soccer Club (SSSC), Mr. Ted James:**

The Salem Surge Soccer Club (SSSC) completed its Spring session with 6 Travel teams playing in the Southeast District of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA). Following the 6 weeks of play, the U10 Boys team went on to play in the Clinton Invitational Tournament and swept all four games to win. Coach's Bob Appleby, Ed Burke, and Ted James were delighted to lead the boys in their second year to such success.



The awards presentation was brought back home to Salem and presentations were made by the Chmielewski's Family Pool.

The Spring season was followed by the annual Coca-Cola Challenge held at Garnders Lake Soccer Field where all attending players in the club were put through six challenging skill stations. Points and times were recorded so the players can progress their performance from season to season and measure their accomplishments on-line with the pro's. This event is sponsored by the Thomas family and "The Plum Tomato".

The annual summer camp was held the last week of July at Garnders Lake Field and was attended by 45 club players. The camp was run by the Major

League Soccer (MLS) organization and was again a great success. The four coaches present a week of skill training and fun activities for the players and establish a greater appreciation for the sport. These coaches are sponsored by MLS and stay with families of club members. The coaches were:

Allen Marsh of Yorkshire, England  
Stewart Scott of Scotland

Greg Smith of Manchester, England  
Leanne Collins of England

Thanks to Roy Collins, Director of MLS and Bob Appleby, SSSC Camp Director and the Collins and Appleby families for sponsoring the coaches for the week. Also thanks to the James family for entertaining the coaches and club directors with a "Meet the Coaches" pool party.

The fall session is about to begin with the district CJSA. Practices have started and the Recreational program will start up after school begins. Anyone interested may contact us through our Website [www.salemsoccerclub.com](http://www.salemsoccerclub.com).

Ted James  
President  
Salem Surge Soccer Club

Thank you Al and Ted! I also wish to thank and other soccer coaches, as well as Mark Law and other basketball coaches for a successful season; and special thanks go to Sue Spang and Nancy Sekinger for planting lovely flowers near the playscape in the Salem Town Park. The commission's beautification efforts are paying off and will continue to do so as the new baseball and soccer fields are completed (as well as, hopefully, relocated tennis courts, girl's softball field, and another soccer field).

Robert Kim Bingham  
Chairman  
Salem Recreation Commission